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Attorney Docket No. 15966-577 (CURA-77)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Shimkets, *et al.*
SERIAL NUMBER : 09/662,783 EXAMINER : Dong Jiang
FILING DATE : September 12, 2000 ART UNIT : 1646
FOR : Growth Factor Polypeptides and Nucleic Acids Encoding Same

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

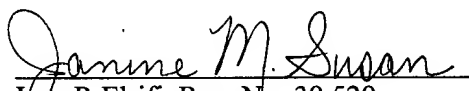
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PETITION FOR THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), Applicant hereby petitions for a three month extension of time to respond to the August 27, 2002 Office Action in the above-identified application. A check in the amount of \$465.00, in payment of the fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(3), is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-577 (CURA-77). A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


Ivor R Elrifi, Reg. No. 39,529
Janine M. Susan, Reg. No. 46,119
Attorneys for Applicants
c/o MINTZ, LEVIN
One Financial Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02111
Tel: (617) 542-6000
Fax: (617) 542-2241

Dated: February 27, 2003

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